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11 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Daily Activity Report - 11 September 1963

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1. Mission Status

a. IDEALIST - The U-2 detachments at Edwards Air Force Base, California on standby status.

b. BRASS KNOB - One U-2 SAC mission No. 3717 was flown on 10 September with results being 80% target coverage and no reaction indicated.

c. SATELLITES - No activity.

2. OXCART Status 10 September:

a. Aircraft #122 (J-58 engines) made flight #24 on 10 September for a duration of 1:12 hours. Maximum speed and altitude: Mach 2.4 and 72,000 feet. Purpose of flight: heat soak. Forty-eight minutes were spent above Mach 2.0 and thirty-five of the forty-eight minutes was spent above Mach 2.37. This is the longest flight above Mach 2.0.

b. Aircraft #124 made flight #133 on 10 September for a duration of 2:03 hours. This was a shake-down flight of the aircraft following a periodic maintenance inspection. This was a good flight with only minor problems encountered.

c. Aircraft #127 made flight #7 on 10 September for a duration of twenty-four minutes. The purpose of the flight was to test heated vacuum window (camera) hatch. This flight was aborted after the pilot went out

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to Mach. 86 and 31,000 feet, at which time the chase pilot noticed some pieces of material coming off the tail of the aircraft. Inspection of the aircraft after landing revealed that the trailing edge skin of the right [redacted] fin had delaminated down to the honeycomb structure and that the main inside skin also was delaminating. In addition, the top cap of the left fin had separated and delamination of the main skin was starting to occur.

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d. Aircraft #121 is scheduled for a roughness investigation flight on 11 September. Aircraft #124 is scheduled for a training flight on 11 September.

3. IDEALIST Camera Improvement Flash Report:

a. The Itek CORONA triple prime camera #51, modified for U-2 use, was flown in a U-2 for the first time on 10 September. Flights were made over Edwards Air Force [redacted] ground resolution targets. About 1,000 feet of film was exposed. A quick first look at a film clip reveals that the results are better than [redacted]. The film from this flight is being rushed to Eastman-Kodak for processing and transmittal to NPIC for evaluation.

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A second test flight in a U-2 is scheduled for 11 September and a night-light photographic flight is scheduled for the evening of 12 September.

b. Color film from a U-2 test of an improved Hycon B camera test flight has been forwarded to Eastman for processing and transmittal to NPIC for evaluation. A quick look preliminary report reveals that the film was slightly overexposed, but the results look good. Details not yet available.

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